

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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FOR DAVID LAZAR ARA/CEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR LABOR INSTITUTE AT NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

1. DURING MEETING DECEMBER 18 WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, LABOR MINISTER FRANCISCO MORALES EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE NON-PRODUCTIVITY OF CONTACTS HE HAD DEVELOPED WITH PROFESSORS FROM THE LABOR RELATIONS SCHOOL AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY. MORALES, AS YOU KNOW, HAD CONTACT WITH JOHN DROTNING EARLY LAST SUMMER IN SAN JOSE WITH AN EYE TOWARD CORNELL ASSISTANCE IN MORALES' PET PROJECT, THE INSTITUTE FOR LABOR STUDIES, NOW BEING ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AT HEREDIA. THE DISCUSSIONS HELD BETWEEN MINISTER MORALES AND CORNELL PROFESSORS APPARENTLY WERE SATISFACTORY TO THE MINISTER AS ON AUGUST 27 HE AND PADRE BENJAMIN NUNEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, SENT DROTNING A LETTER WHICH STATED THAT THE COSTA RICANS WANTED TO MAKE THE CORNELL SCHOOL OF LABOR RELATIONS A MODEL UPON WHICH TO ORGANIZE THE COSTA RICAN LABOR INSTITUTE. THE LETTER FURTHER CONSTITUTED A FORMAL APPLICATION FOR TEACHING ASSISTANCE, PRESUMABLY TO BE FACILITATED THROUGH PROF. DROTNING'S GOOD OFFICES.

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2. MORALES HAS NEVER RECEIVED AN ANSWER TO THIS

LETTER NOR HAS HE HAD FURTHER CONTACT WITH THE CORNELL PEOPLE WHEN THEY WERE HERE. IN THE MEANTIME, HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE MOVED AHEAD WITH THE INSTITUTE'S PLANS AND, LACKING ANY RESPONSE FROM CORNELL, SOUGHT NEEDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS. ACCORDING TO MORALES, A LABOR INSTITUTE EXISTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS WHICH CAN AND WILL OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING TEACHERS, TO THE COSTA RICAN INSTITUTE. MOREOVER, MORALES POINTED OUT THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN SAN JOSE HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET HIS FOOT IN THE DOOR WITH SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

3. MORALES IS CLEARLY STILL INTERESTED IN THE CORNELL PROGRAM AND WHAT IT MAY BE ABLE TO OFFER TO HIS PROJECT. HE IS HOPEFUL THAT DROTNING WILL BE ABLE TO FIND A MEANS OF ASSISTING, AND HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN REVIVING AND STIMULATING CORNELL'S RESPONSE. MORALES WOULD SPECIFICALLY LIKE AN INSTRUCTOR IN LABOR ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO SPEND AN ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINNING IN MARCH 1974 IN SAN JOSE. WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT SOME MEANS SHOULD BE FOUND TO PROVIDE THIS ASSISTANCE AND HELP TO THE NEW LABOR INSTITUTE. THIS PILOT YEAR WILL BE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO THE ORIENTATION OF THE INSTITUTE AND OFFERS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR US LABOR EXPERIENCE TO MAKE ITSELF FELT. AS THIS PROPOSAL SEEMS TO FALL MORE TOWARDS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THAN CULTURAL EXCHANGE, WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT RESEARCH POSSIBILITIES BY WHICH AN INSTRUCTOR COULD BE PROVIDED. PRECISE DESCRIPTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR'S QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES WILL HAVE TO BE SPELLED OUT IN MORE DETAIL THROUGH FURTHER TALKS WITH MORALES AND NUNEZ, BUT WE FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT AT THIS TIME TO BEGIN THINKING, HOPEFULLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH CORNELL, ABOUT THE GENERAL PROSPECTS OF ASSISTANCE.

4. PLEASE CONTACT DRTNING AND ASK HOW HE INTENDS TO RESPOND TO MORALES' REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.

5. THE EMBASSY IS SEPARATELY REQUESTING CU FUNDING TO OFFER MORALES AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE A TWO-WEEK IVP GRANT BY WHICH THEY CAN TRAVEL TO NEW YORK AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERSONALLY EXAMINE THE CORNELL LABOR SCHOOL'S STRUCTURE, CURRICULUM, ETC. THIS VISIT WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE DURING FEBRUARY. YOUR SUPPORT IS REQUESTED.
VAKY

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